

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 5, 2009

Present John Brusch, Diana Dick, Ethel Hamann, Hegarty, Haysang Jeon (social work intern) Jack Kantor, Henry Kazarian, Anne Lougée, Judy Morrison, Angela Santoro Mullin, Nava Niv-Vogel (Director), Phyl Solomon

Absent Joel Semuels

Vice Chair Phyl Solomon called the meeting to order 7:30 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed and two corrections were made: It was noted that Phyl Solomon did not attend the meeting and that the Nominating Committee report should be amended to read “Secretaries: Rotating.” With these corrections the minutes were unanimously approved.

Senior Citizens Concerns: There were none.

General Announcements: There were none.

Springwell Report: See “Discussion of Annual Springwell Payments” below.

Director’s Report: In addition to the attached report, Nava Niv-Vogel reported that Brian Jennings, the COA Transportation Coordinator, slipped on the ice this morning and will be out for a few days. Subsequently, a transportation report was not available for this meeting. Nava plans to widely publicize the 11:00 am to 1:00 pm senior swim program available weekdays at the Watertown Boys and Girls Club for a \$5 fee. Transportation will be provided 2 days a week.

Building Committee report: Neil Hegarty reported that there will be a meeting of the Committee this Thursday. The Committee is dealing with the contractor regarding delays that were incurred when the building was being framed. The contractor expects that there will be further delays for a variety of reasons, most notably that this area has not had this much rain since 1972.

Friends of the COA: Anne Lougée reported that the next meeting of the Friends Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 (at the Senior Center).

Old Business

Process for Addressing Budget FY’10 Hearings: The Town’s budget review process is currently on hold, as financial information from the State is not yet available. Two sub-committees were formed to explore ways for the COA to save money: Angela Santoro Mullin, Neil Hegarty, and Henry Kazarian will work with Boston College social work intern Haysang Jeon on transportation issues and Judy Morrison and Diana Dick will explore the trips program.

Discussion of Annual Springwell Payments: Under the Older American’s Act, municipalities, including Belmont, whose clients receive services from Springwell, pay \$250 on an annual basis as a local match to the organization. This amount, which has always been itemized in the COA budget and approved by Town Meeting, has not been

paid by the Town since FY '08. Both Belmont's Town Accountant and Assistant Town Administrator interpret the \$250 payment as a donation and cite a rule that municipalities cannot make a donation to another organization as the reason the payment was not paid last year and not yet paid this year. Belmont is the only community that has not paid this match.

The COA believes that the payment is a token recognition of all that Springwell provides for Belmont elders. In fact, those services will increase significantly when the new center opens, as Springwell will take over the Meals on Wheels program and will manage the on-site meals program. The Board will ask to meet with the Selectmen on this matter. At this meeting the Board resolved, unanimously, that:

“It is the position of this Board that we owe Springwell the money that was budgeted for this purpose in FY '08 and FY '09, totaling \$500,” and that we need to go forward to ensure that this happens. Ethel Hamann and Nava Niv-Vogel will draft a letter to Tom Younger reflecting the view of the Board.

New Business:

Election of Board Officers: The 2009-10 slate of officers follows:

Neil Hegarty – Treasurer  
Rotating amongst members – Secretary  
Henry Kazarian – Vice Chair  
Ethel Hamann - Chair

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Lougée